

April

Spring Wildflower Walks

Saturday, April 2, April 9 and Friday, April 15, 10am-Noon

Trillium Trail in Giant City is one of the best spring wildflower trails in southern Illinois. Join the Natural Resources Coordinator as we meander through the spring woods and take a closer look at these petite beauties. This is a moderately difficult two-mile trail with some steep stair climbing. **Registration required.**

The Mysterious Morel Mushroom

Saturday, April 2, 2:00-3:00pm

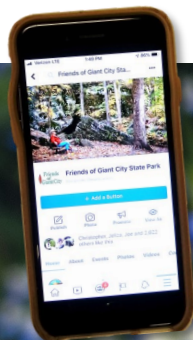
The Morel is one tricky fungus! There seems to be no rhyme or reason to these mushrooms. Park Volunteer, photographer and local nature enthusiast, Gretchen Steele, has some great tips to help you find the sometimes hard to locate Morel. After a brief presentation, we will head out to the field for a small hike. While we may not find any mushrooms, participants will have a chance to learn more about what makes a good mushroom habitat. **Registration required.**

New programs are added throughout the year!

For an updated list, visit the Friends of Giant City Facebook site.



www.facebook.com/friendsofgiantcity



<https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/Parks/Pages/GiantCity.aspx>



Giant City State Park

January-April 2022 Programs



Giant City State Park
235 Giant City Road
Makanda, IL 62958
618-457-4836



January

Art in the Park

Saturday January 15, 1-3pm

What better setting than outdoors at Giant City State Park to get creative and learn how to watercolor paint! Join local artist, Anne Krippenstapel, for a leisurely afternoon of creating art inspired by nature. This is a free program and all supplies will be provided. **Registration required.**

Ecology and Behavior of the Bobcat and Coyote

Saturday, January 22, 1-2pm

Join Nicole Gorman, SIUC Graduate Research Assistant, as she discussed the ecology and behavior of the main predators in Illinois, bobcats and coyotes. Nicole will also discuss how these animals affect their prey, move, use space and interact with their habitats, including Giant City! **Registration required.**

Mysterious Stone Forts of Southern Illinois

Saturday, January 29, 1-2pm

Our world is full of mysterious and unexplained places, many of which are monuments made of stone, built by ancient people for reasons that we can only theorize, many are shrouded in mythology and legends. In Southern Illinois located on high isolated ridges in the Shawnee Hill Country, stretching in a broken line across the state lie 11 mysterious stone walls. Mark Motsinger, a retired History teacher has studied the stone forts for years and will share his research on these interesting and mysterious places scattered throughout the area, one of which is located here at Giant City State Park. **Registration required.**

February

Winter Walk in the Woods

Saturday, February 5, 10-11:30am

It may be cold outside, but winter is a great time to get some exercise and fresh air as we take in the natural beauty of Giant City State Park. Join the Natural Resources Coordinator as we take a leisurely stroll through the winter woods. Trail length ranges from 3/4 mile to 2 miles. **Registration required.**

Ann Stokes Living History Program

Saturday, February 12, 1-2pm

Join Marlene Rivero, local first-person heritage interpreter and storyteller, as she reenacts the life of "Ann Bradford Stokes: African American Civil War Nurse." Stokes worked aboard the Navy's first Hospital Ship, Red Rover, of Mound City, IL, treating sick and wounded soldiers aboard the United States Naval (U.S.N.) Hospital Ship. **Registration required.**



**Please call 618-457-4836
to register.**

February contd.

Art in the Park

Saturday, February 19, 1-3pm

What better setting than outdoors at Giant City State Park to get creative and learn how to watercolor paint! Join local artist, Anne Krippenstapel, for a leisurely afternoon of creating art inspired by nature. This is a free program and all supplies will be provided. **Registration required.**

Beekeeping for Beginners

Saturday, February 26, 1-3pm

Discover the basics of backyard bee keeping! Join local bee enthusiasts Angie and Colin Kuehl as they discuss getting started with bee keeping. The benefits to beekeeping extend beyond just pollination and honey! Head out to the Visitors Center and find out how you can get started. This program is free and open to the public but **registration is required.**

March

12 Mile Red Cedar Hike

Sunday, March 6, 8am-4:00pm

For the experienced long distance hiker wishing to take a more challenging guided hike, now is your chance! Join Mary Boehler, park volunteer and Master Naturalist, as she leads participants along this 12 mile backpacking trail. This hike will take a minimum of six hours to complete and will be very rugged. **Registration required.**

Full Moon Hike

Saturday March 18, 7-8:30pm

Hike the 3/4 mile Indian Creek Trail in the dappled moonlight with interpretive guide Steve Garipey. Consider the nocturnal activities of forest animals, of native people who once sheltered there, and explore our own senses and relationship to the night. **Registration required.**

Birding Hikes

Saturday, March 26 and Wednesday, March 30, 8-10am

March is a great time to look for spring migrators in Giant City! Join Vicki Lang-Mendenhall, park volunteer and Southern Illinois Audubon Society member, as she guides participants along the 3/4 mile Indian Creek Nature Trail on March 20th and, the 1/3 mile Post Oak Trail on March 31st. Sign up for one or both! **Registration required.**

Learn how to Evaluate the Natural Quality of the Landscape using FQA

Sunday, March 27, 2-3pm

Knowing the vegetation present on your property can guide management and land practices. This program will explain the power of using floristic quality analysis (FQA) to interpret the landscape, including a discussion on coefficient of conservatism values and natural quality indicators. **Registration required.**